

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-7 are currently pending and have been subject to restriction. The Examiner asserts that the claims are drawn to two patentably distinct inventions as follows:


- |          |   |
|----------|---|
| Group I  | Claim 1, drawn to a functional benzotriazole compound of Formula (I);<br>and                            |
| Group II | Claims 2-7, drawn to a process for preparing a functionalized<br>benzotriazole compound of Formula (I). |

Applicants elect the claimed method of Group I, claim 1, drawn to a functional benzotriazole compound of Formula (I). Applicants submit that the election is made without prejudice to the prosecution of the subject matter of non-elected claims in divisional, continuation, and continuation-in-part applications. If the elected product claims are found allowable, Applicants reserve the right to pursue the non-elected process claims in the present case, pursuant to MPEP § 821.04.

For the purpose of examination, the Examiner further requires a species election of one compound falling within the scope of Formula (I). Applicants hereby elect a compound of Formula (I) wherein R<sub>1</sub> is hydrogen, R<sub>2</sub> is hydrogen, R<sub>3</sub> is hydrogen, and X<sub>1</sub> is bromine.

Entry of the foregoing remarks into the file of the above-identified application is respectfully requested. An early allowance is earnestly sought.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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